

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 15, 2004. Claims 1-23 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20 are in independent form. Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, and the remaining claims, Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 11-16, 18, and 21-23 have been amended as to matters of form. Favorable further consideration is requested.

Claims 1-3, 9-12, and 15-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,609,123 (*Cazemier et al.*), and rejected Claims 4-8, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cazemier et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,941 (*Rowe et al.*).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a data management system for managing data by appending meta data for a data search to managed data that includes means for accepting a user's selection of the managed data to which the meta data is to be appended, means for accepting the user's selection of the types of contents of the managed data, and means for changing candidates of meta data to be provided according to the type selected by the user, the candidates to be appended as meta data being prepared in advance in correspondence with the types of contents of data to be managed. The apparatus also includes means for accepting the user's selection of meta

data to be appended to the selected data from the provided candidates of meta data, and means for saving the selected data and the selected meta data in association with each other.

Among the notable features of Claim 1 is changing candidates of meta data to be provided according to the type selected by the user. Support in the specification for this feature can be found at least from page 24, line 4, to page 28, line 14, and Figure 7.¹ Specifically, in Figure 7, candidates of metadata (742-744) are changed according to an event in area 741 which is selected by a user. That is, a user, even a user who has no expert knowledge about the appending of meta data, can easily and efficiently append meta data.

Cazemier et al. relates to a query engine and method for querying data using a meta data model. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in *Cazemier et al.* that would teach or suggest changing candidates of meta data to be provided according to the type selected by the user, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that, at least for this reason, Claim 1 is patentable over *Cazemier et al.*

Independent Claims 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20 include a similar feature as that discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 9, 10, 17, 19, and 20 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record, including *Rowe et al.*, has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art

¹It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

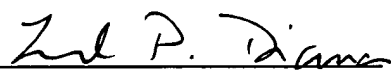
discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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